

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A watermark embedding unit for embedding watermark information containing information of a user identification number into a predetermined content, comprising:

means for outputting at least one codeword selected from a plurality of codewords constructing a simplex code, in correspondence with an inputted user identification number; and

means for embedding the outputted codeword as ~~the~~ first watermark information into the content as an embedding target,

wherein a Hamming distance between the outputted codeword and a second outputted codeword is proportional to a distance between the first watermark information and a second watermark information.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A watermark detecting unit for detecting watermark information containing information of a user identification number from a predetermined content, comprising:

means for outputting at least one codeword selected from a plurality of codewords constructing a simplex code, in correspondence with an inputted user identification number;

means for obtaining a correlation value between the outputted codeword and the content; and

means for determining presence or absence of a codeword corresponding to the inputted user identification number in the content, based on the correlation value,

wherein a Hamming distance between the outputted codeword and a second outputted codeword is proportional to a distance between the first watermark information and a second watermark information.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A watermark detecting unit for detecting watermark information containing information of a user identification number from a predetermined content, comprising:

means for outputting a plurality of codewords which respectively correspond to a plurality of previously registered user identification numbers and which construct a simplex code;

means for obtaining a correlation value between each of the outputted codewords and the content; and

means for determining presence or absence of watermark information, based on norm calculated, regarding each obtained correlation value as a vector, and for specifying a colluder based on the correlation value if presence of watermark information is determined,

wherein a Hamming distance between the outputted codeword and a second outputted codeword is proportional to a distance between the first watermark information and a second watermark information.

Claim 32 (Canceled).